

Comment on whether to permanently extend the waiver of section 64.1601(b) rules allowing Jewish Community Centers access to caller ID information:

I am the Chief Executive Officer of TDR Technology Solutions. TDR is the only company in the United States that specializes in preventing phoned in threats to educational institutions.

Phoned in threats to educational facilities is a growing national problem. In the 2016 – 2017 school year, TDR effectively intercepted over 600 phoned in threats to schools in the State of New York alone! And there are over three months left to the current term.

A recent report produced by the National School Safety and Security Services provided the following statistics on school threats:

- **812 school shooting and bomb threats** targeting preK-12 schools collected primarily from news reports during the first five months of the 2014-15 school year (August-December, 2014)
- **73%** of the violent threats were **shooting and/or bomb threats**
- Threats targeted schools in **46 states** with the top 10 states receiving 55% of the 812 threats
- The **top 10 states** in order were: OH, CA, PA, NY, FL, TX, MI, WA, MA, and CT

The impact of the threats:

- **30% of the threats resulted in evacuations** of schools
- **10% of the threats closed school** for at least the day of the threat
- Many of the **evacuations and closings were done prematurely and unnecessarily**, which can expose children to greater safety risks
- Threats triggered a **substantial disruption of the educational process** and **massive law enforcement responses**, as well as an enormous amount of **stress, anxiety and trauma** in the schools and communities.
- **Financial costs for investigating the threats and heightened security** costs serious money with costs **ranging from tens to hundreds-of-thousands of dollars.**

We have trained over 20 carriers on effective methods to protect schools from phoned in threats. Access to caller ID information can assist in providing a better defense to phoned in threats. The waiver allows us to provide more accurate threat assessments and assist law enforcement in quickly investigating and prosecuting the individuals and organizations making the threats. In many cases, we can avoid closing a school if we can identify the caller.

Yet our efforts are impeded by the requirement to apply for a waiver for access to caller ID information for *each* school we protect. **To support our effort to protect our children, the waiver should not only be permanently extended but should also be broadened to include *all* public and private schools and all religious institutions.**

We advised Middletown School district to ask Senator Schumer to help with the waiver last year. We are seeing an epidemic of phoned in threats in the past 3 years to schools. We will be asking the commission for additional waivers in the next 12 months. Very often we will see increased threats to public schools on the same days that Jewish Community Centers receive threats. While some of the threats are from individuals with a local or specific issue, we are seeing an increased number of threats coming from overseas terrorist groups.

Senator Schumer has been very strong advocate and outspoken when it comes to protecting our children from all threats including phoned in threats. We need to continue this effort and broaden the protection to all schools and religious institutions.

Don Beeler